

CONTACTS 接觸

雜誌 *magazine*

June-July '96

\$35.00

South Africa Shows The Way

警告

WARNING

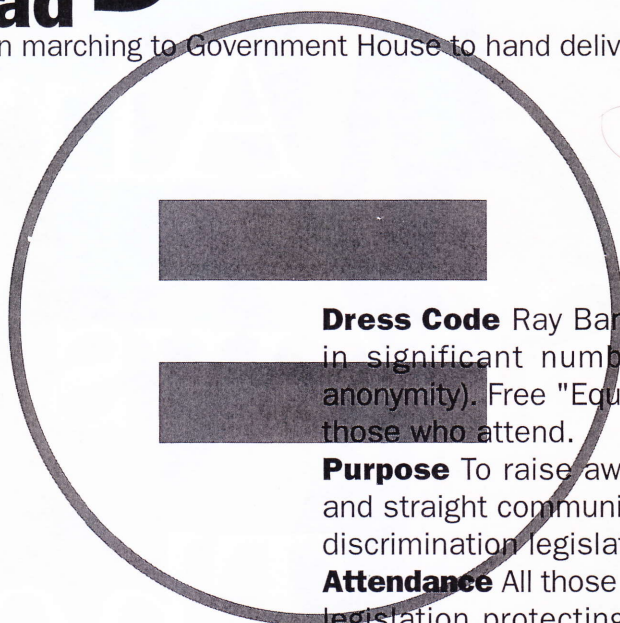
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Equal Oppportunity Rally

Sunday 7th July
1996 at 2pm
Chater Road

(next to Legco Building), then marching to Government House to hand deliver a letter to our Governor.



Dress Code Ray Bans (to allow us to attend in significant numbers while maintaining anonymity). Free "Equal Opportunity" T-shirt to those who attend.

Purpose To raise awareness in both the gay and straight communities for the need for anti-discrimination legislation.

Attendance All those who care enough to have legislation protecting lesbians, gays, and bisexuals from discrimination in Hong Kong.

Supporters Democratic Party, Christine Loh, Emily Lau, Lau Chin Sek, Lee Cheuk Yan, Zachary Wong, Elizabeth Wong...

Agenda Come and show your support for one of the most significant pieces of legislation to affect your life. Speeches are welcome, in particular from gay organizations in Hong Kong who work very hard to protect the rights of their members, including those specializing in either support, or advocacy. Legco members identified will be talking at the rally. Any interested speakers are also welcome to present their views. All attendees will be invited to a special party immediately after the event at one of the clubs in Lan Kwai Fong.

For further information contact Eunice: 2537 2485

Wear designer shorts, trousers, dresses, frocks, skirts, bathing costumes or fashionably ripped jeans. Put on your RB's, CD's, PC's or plain old sunglasses. Dig out your favourite baseball cap, cheesecutter, trilby, bowler or anything else to keep the sun off your head.

We've all got a date.

Meet Gays, Women, the Disabled, Legislators, Immigrant Workers, the General Group join any group or none. Get involved say your bit. Talk to whoever is around tell them what you think. Or say nothing to anyone. Listen to what others have to say and reflect.

We've got the people.

Christine Loh's going to be there, so is Emily Lau and other prominent politicians. Hong Kong Gay activists are going to be there: Robin Adams, Barrie Brandon, 10% Club Members, Horizons, Isvara, Satanga, Queer Sisters. Peggy Lam and Michael Suen are not expected to make an appearance.

This is the event.

Come for the rally, speeches, the demonstration, the march, to see who else is there, to meet friends old and new, to see what's happening, just to be downright nosy. Just come.

There's going to be a party.

Keep it a secret! There's going to be a 'gathering' afterwards so we can party. The Gay Coalition are arranging for all Gays involved at the event to get together at a still-to-be-announced venue. Tickets and information will be distributed at the event.

Where?

Chater Road

When?

Sunday July 7th 2 p.m.

Why?

Equal Opportunities rally

See You There!

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Regulars



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constitution to accept
Gays...Page 12 & 15

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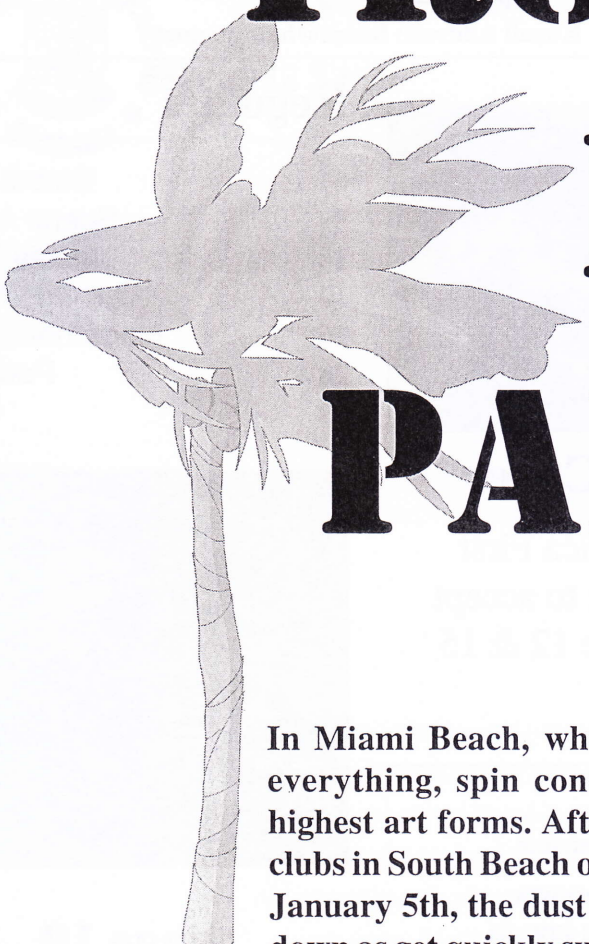
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TROUBLE

IN

PARADISE

by Eugene J. Patron



In Miami Beach, where appearances are everything, spin control has become the highest art forms. After the raiding of Gay clubs in South Beach on December 30th and January 5th, the dust didn't so much settle down as get quickly swept away in the name of preserving Miami Beach's appeal to Gay tourists and the revenue they represent.

In the days immediately following the January raid on Glam Slam, a handful of Gay community leaders pressed upon Police Chief Barreto, City Manager Jose Garcia-Pedrosa and City Commissioner Nisen Kasdin the importance of Gay tourist dollars to Miami Beach. They included representatives of Dade ActionPac, the South Beach Business Guild, South Beach After Dark, as well as Neil Fritz from the Washington Avenue Associate and Michael Aller, the Miami Beach Tourism and Convention Co-ordinator.

No one was condoning drug use in clubs, but they were concerned with the heavy handed manner of enforcement used by the police and agents from the State of Florida Department of Professional Regulations. Certainly the hundreds of tourists herded out of the club and into the street by the police were not going to send glowing postcards about Miami Beach back to their friends.

In a memo to his commanding officers written on January 6th, Chief Barreto noted that with three of the four recently raided clubs being Gay, "there is a perception in the Gay community the Police Department is targeting Gay establishments for selective enforcement."

Chief Barreto proceeds to outline in the memo a chronology of drug investigations in Miami Beach clubs which led to the raids. He finishes by saying, "We progressively increased our enforcement options dealing only with those clubs which did not re-

spond to repeated warnings and offers of assistance, and where drug activity was widespread and blatant. I also know we did so without regard to any particular affiliation..."

According to promoter Arnie Smith who attended the meetings with the Police Chief, "Some errors of judgement were certainly made, but we don't feel these were the result of an anti-Gay bias on the part of the police. This isn't so much a Gay issue as it is one regarding tourism and business."

Over the last few years a dangerous precedent has been set in Miami Beach where issues relating to the Gay community are framed in terms of economic importance, rather than human and civil rights.

Smith, along with Neil Fritz, and Tim Barnum of the business Guild, have offered to be liaisons between the club owners and the Police Department. They will meet with the Chief every three months, and in the interim time help address problems as they arise. "The important thing now, says Smith," is for all of us to work together to form a cohesive community."

Yet the very way the Gay community reacted to the raids demonstrated up both the community's strengths and weaknesses. While Gay dollars and what they mean to Miami Beach's economy are certainly an important tool in making the Gay community's voice heard, they are but a means to an end and not an end in themselves. Over the last few years a danger

ous precedent has been set in Miami Beach where issues relating to the Gay community are framed in terms of economic importance, rather than human and civil rights.

Whether the police raid was, or was, not based upon targeting Gay clubs needs to be examined in the larger context of how policing is conducted in general on Miami Beach as it relates to Gays and lesbians. But the community itself has often

turned a blind eye to issues which don't directly relate to the pocketbook. "I didn't see anyone call a meeting or some sort of community forum

when two drag queens on their way to Lucky Changs were attacked with beer bottles right outside my door," says the owner of a Collins Avenue Cafe. "I called the police, and like two items before when I called and called, no one showed up. Many of the officers don't live on the beach and just don't care."

Robert Rosenberg, co-producer of the film "Before Stonewall" points out that so much of Gay history has been about defending what public spaces we can call

our own. He notes, however, that in South Beach, "the community doesn't get upset about things like people being arrested in Flamingo Park even if they were there before the curfew or just walking alongside the park at night. They don't see the correlation between surrendering the public space of the park, and then the police moving on our clubs. It's an issue of general climate, not specific locales."

That general climate is one where actions are only met with reactions by the Gay community when money is involved; resulting not only in a threat to our civil rights, but also it com-

promises the well being of our community. It is a threat we bring upon ourselves when we emphasise cash over compassion and care.

Walk down Washington Avenue from Warsaw to Twist and count how many posters heralding an upcoming AIDS benefit you see in shop windows; at least two. Then count how many AIDS prevention posters you see: none. We are willing to open our wallets, but not our mouths. We will party in the name of AIDS but not

make demands on our politicians, our Gay leaders and Gay businesses for effective AIDS prevention strategies and advocacy.

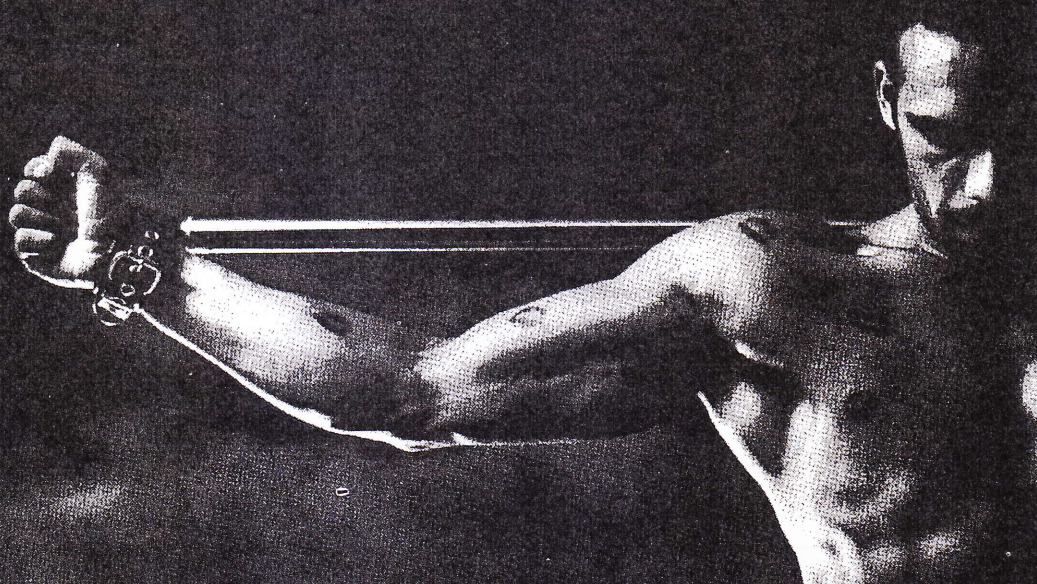
It is with that very same myopic view that we seek to smooth over problems with those in power who have the ability to infringe on our lives. Flexing our financial muscles is a powerful tool to get their attention; until someone with deeper pockets comes along. We have to remember that if we base our political strength around Gay dollars, then we are only strong because of Gay tourists.

Thousands of Gay men may nightly crowd South Beach dance floors, but how many ever make it to voting stations? Is there any Gay organisation in Dade county who could get 1,000 people into the street for a protest within 48 hours of sending out a call? Don't think the police and politicians are unaware of these real weaknesses. These will soon matter greatly as more and more big money continues pouring into Miami Beach. And then there is the Christian Right, for whom no amount of money will be good enough. We cannot buy their favour, for we are the damned. It won't be too hard for them to deny us our rights if we have never bothered to exercise or defend them.

It won't be too hard for them to deny us our rights if we have never bothered to exercise or defend them.

Clothing and accessories for girls and boys from fashion to fantasy to serious toys

If you love someone, set them free.



Eventually.

Fetish

Leather Lace Rubber PVC Chainmail Mesh
Harnesses Corsets Shorts Pants Skirts
Whips Supenders Boots Restrains

Leather Lace Rubber PVC Chainmail Mesh
Gloves Paddles Braces Bodices Chaps
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GLOBAL NEWS



Asia

UNAIDS, an agency of the United Nations, reported that almost 13 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have AIDS, a number Asia is set to overtake. The agency estimated that 7,500 people around the world are infected with HIV every day, and that heterosexual transmission has been the cause of more than 75 percent of all new HIV infections world-wide. Nearly 50 percent of the 7,500 daily infections occur in women. The tally also shows that by the end of 1995, more than 4 million people in Asia have HIV or AIDS. The majority of the cases are in India and Thailand, but the virus is spreading to other Asian countries. Poverty was cited as one of the most powerful forces driving HIV infection, with more than 90 percent of people with HIV living in developing countries. World-wide, the hardest hit age group is those aged 15 to 24.

Malaysia

Back in 1987, a group of men and women started meeting at a house in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia. They were concerned at the lack of local support services for Gay people. They decided that a telephone counselling and information service would make a good start in providing support for Gay people who were lonely, confused or depressed. Today, Pink Triangle have their own Community Service Centre, a full service AIDS outreach program, a youth group, a women's group, a theatre group and much more. Their address is Pink Triangle, P.O.Box 11859, 50760 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

China

With a US\$10 million loan from the World Bank, the Chinese Ministry of Health will implement a five-year program to control the spread of non-infectious chronic diseases and HIV. A pilot project will be launched in China's Yunnan province and seven cities. Non-infectious chronic diseases are on the rise in China, as the population ages and lifestyles are changing. Sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, are also increasing in China, with more than 2,500 cases of HIV infection reported.

Singapore

People Like Us (PLUS), the two year old Gay, Lesbian & bisexual group, have a new address: PLUS, Raffles City P.O.Box 0299, Singapore 9117, Singapore. Joseph Lo is the President and founder of this impressive organisation which has a newsletter and lots of social activities as well as discussion groups. About 40 people are attending their get-togethers every month. They hope to work more with NGO's and AIDS organisation and would love to have contact and exchange publications with other groups world-wide. PLUS also has a women's sub group and a Gay Christian group called Sanctuary.

Philippines

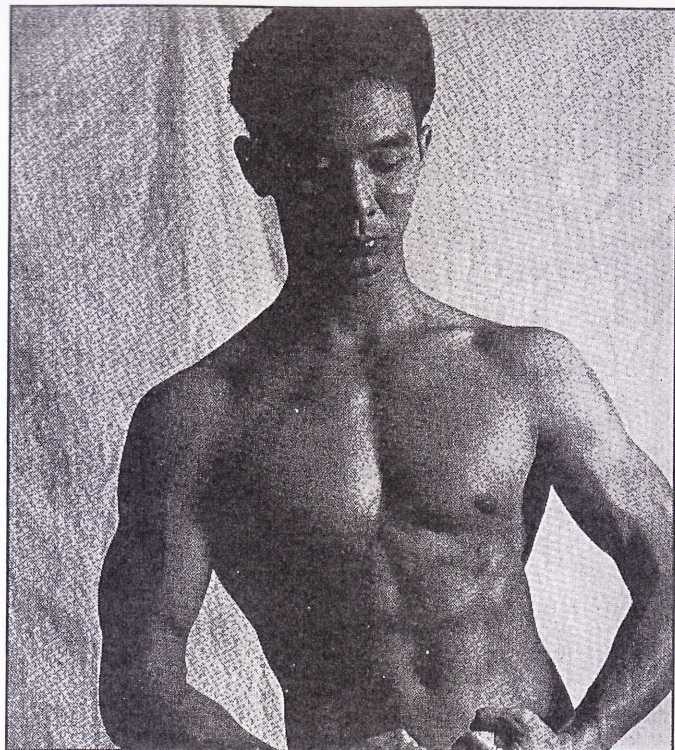
A new Lesbian organisation called "Can't Live in the Closet" (CLIC) started this year in Quezon City, a suburb of Manila, Philippines. The group reports that the Catholic Church is the main opposition to Gays and Lesbians in the Philippines and currently has intensified its campaign against homosexuality. Their struggle is similar to that of Lesbians and Gays in Latin America, where the main adversary is not the State but the Roman Catholic church.

New Zealand

The Federation Of Gay Games was established last month reports Mark Proffit. It serves as a liaison committee to the (International) Federation Of Gay Games committee and a national umbrella organisation. Its mission encourages the development and the promotion of all Gay/Lesbian/bisexual related sport/fitness/leisure activities in New Zealand. FOGG(NZ)'s main objective is to field a full contingency of participants to the in August 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam.

Sweden

In May the Dalai Lama visited Scandinavia taking part in hearings, seminars and public discussions. While there he spoke to 14,000 enthusiastic youngsters at Globen, which is usually used for large sport events, and mega-star concerts. Buddhism teaches homosexuality is a sin, according to the Swedish tabloid *Expressen*. But His Highness gave his personal blessing to Gay artist, Richard Wolf, who with other artists entertained later the same night. "I was not aware, when I said I would perform, that Buddhism condemns Gays," Wolf told the audience. Before the concert I told the Dalai Lama of my sexual orientation. He told me: "There are no acts of love between adults, that one can or should condemn."



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Scene 香港 Around



The new group for men launched just a month ago, Freeman, certainly seems to

have got off to a good start; there's an overnight camp for members and guests on the 22-23 June. The small registration fee includes all meals and accommodation. The event will be held in Pokfulam. Details 7112 8903 call 8862. And on the 28th July there's another event at a Wanchai restaurant, more details next month. The group also have a new postal address GPO Box 2443 Hong Kong.

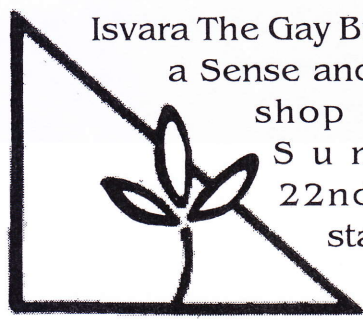
There's a new bar in town...or there will be very soon. Located conveniently close to Lan Kwai Fung the new bar will, we're **F.Y.I.** told, cater for Gay people's needs in a quiet relaxing way. The bar known as The Garage will open just as soon as they can get a liquor licence. More details next month.

AUCTION

The 5th Mad Hatters Party created by the 97 Group and Elias Ben Avi will auction 30 hats specially created by 'the most hip & groovy designers and HK Socialites'. There will be four course dinners at Post 97 and The Pavilion and a four hour dance-athon scheduled for Club 97. The events on Thursday 27th June are in support of AIDS Concern.

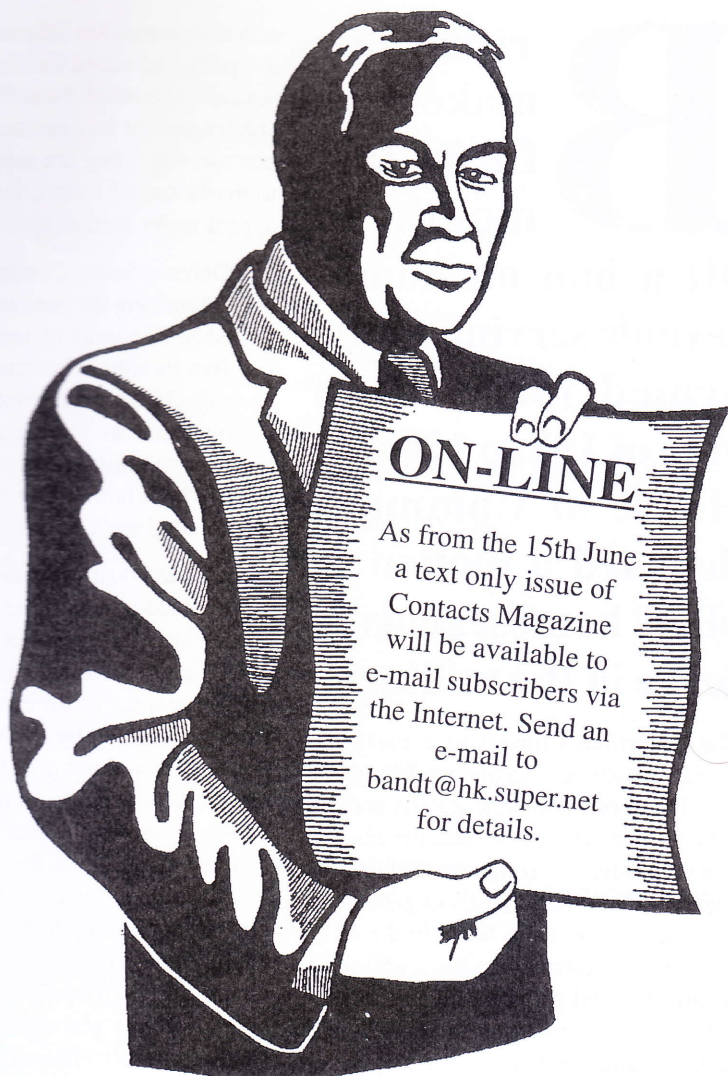
Eastern Express

Sad to report that the *Eastern Express* - the only daily newspaper in Hong Kong to carry a regular Gay column decided last month to become a business oriented paper. This meant not only closing the features section but sacking almost all it's reporters and the subsequent lose of the Gay column. We can only hope that other newspapers pick up where the *Express* left off by acknowledging there is a Gay community in Hong Kong and provide a platform for Gay articles and views.



Isvara The Gay Buddhist Group have a Sense and Zen sharing workshop on the
Sunday 自在社
22nd June
 starting at **8 p.m.**
THE ISVARA

workshop, conducted in Cantonese is free of charge and will be held at 24D, 202 Reclamation Street, Kowloon.



QUOTES ONOTES

What they said...

"The notion that one day people would try to probe into the private world of my thoughts and feelings, into everything I so carefully hid throughout my life is very sad and unpleasant."

Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky,

"Looking back on [growing up in Leavenworth, Kansas], I don't know how I did it, or anyone did it. The thing is, you think you are the only one. At least nowadays you can turn on CNN and they're going to say 'Gay and Lesbian.'"

Singer Melissa Etheridge to Gay Times.

We have some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter to me now. Because I have been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind... I've seen the promised land. I may not go there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people will get to the promised land.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I think if you suggest that you find some modes of behavior unnatural, then you get vilified. That's when I found out I was a misogynist, a bigot, a racist, a neo-nazi, a homophobe. They had signs. They were screaming and frothing at the mouth. Pure hatred. It was wild. People just looking for attention."

Mel Gibson, in Playboy magazine.

"Our churches sometimes promote these irrational feelings and behaviors. Like the idea that gay or lesbian people can't take good care of children. Or that ... gay men will go after any man walking down the street. Well, those are lies. Their feelings are related to emotional bonding. I don't feel like going out with any man who walks down the street. Well, gay relationships are just like heterosexual relationships. Sometimes they may even be more warm and loving and caring than these so-called great families who talk about it."

Former U.S. Surgeon

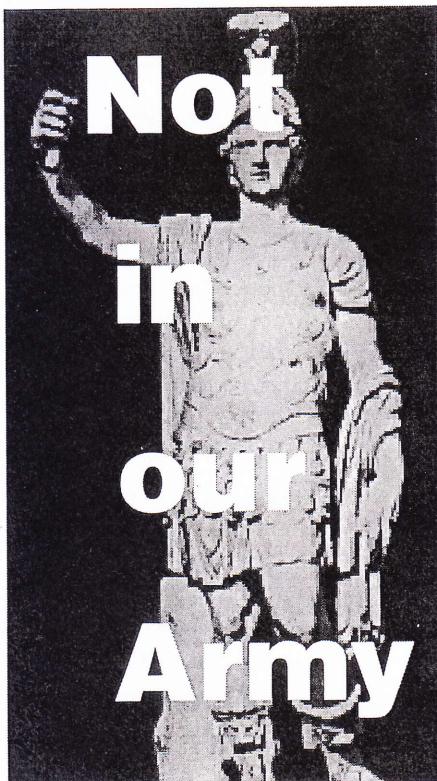
General Jocelyn Elders to Playboy.

"You always have to remember — no matter what you're told — that God loves all the flowers, even the wild ones that grow on the side of the highway." Cyndi "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun"

Lauper when asked about her gay fans by the Reuter news service.

30% DISCOUNT

Jonathan's Fitness Club in Tsim Sha Tsui are offering a discount but only until the end of June. The 30% discount is available Monday-Friday anytime, weekends before 6 p.m. Check the Gay Guide for address and phone number.



Alexander The Great of Macadonia

British Parlia- ment says no to Gays serving in the military

by Danny Wong and agencies

British law makers refused last month to lift a ban on homosexuals serving in the armed force. By a vote of 188 to 120, the House of Commons defeated a motion to allow homosexuals to serve in the military.

The governing Conservative Party ordered its members to oppose lifting the ban. The opposition Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats gave their members a free vote. Most other members of the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation allow homosexuals to serve in the military without restrictions. But a 450-page report prepared for the Ministry of Defence in late February said Gays would hamper fighting efficiency and may never fit in with the military despite changing attitudes among civilians.

Many of the attitude inquiries were phrased in a partisan manner such as: "If I had to share showers and sleeping accommodation with known homosexuals, I would resent them — Agree or Disagree?" The report team, which included a chartered psychologist, insisted those negative questions were balanced by statements inviting a positive response..

"What this report does is to legitimise the undoubted prejudices of our chiefs of staff. It does not include their own legal advice that they will lose the case if it goes to Europe," said Angela Mason of Gay rights group Stonewall.

In the debate, Con-

servative lawmaker Edwina Currie defied her party and called for the ban on homosexuals to be lifted. Four Gay people have challenged the ban in court, so far without success. They are seeking to appeal to the House of Lords, the final court of appeal under British law.

The Defence Select Committee which has been reviewing the ban, said the committee asked hundreds of servicemen in the last five months what their attitude was towards Gays working with them. I think it's right that we should take account of the overwhelming response which came back, which is that they wish the status quo to continue", he said.

It comes as no surprise to learn that there is prejudice against homosexuals in the British armed forces, but the rabid, hysterical nature of it is genuinely shocking. These are some of the comments elicited from servicemen by the Ministry of Defence: "I would not give first aid to a homosexual under any circumstance"; "If a known homosexual was in the Marines and had started to suffer from hypothermia, I would not share my body heat with him. I'd rather he died"; "I would quite happily smash their faces in if I found any in my unit"; "The first homosexual to come out will get attacked or shot." A smaller number are conciliatory. "When I go to war, I would rather have alongside me a Gay who shoots straight, than a straight who shoots crooked," observes a lieutenant colonel. Of 639 letters received, 587 opposed any change in the regulations.

(Continued on page 22)



You don't need to be alone

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2513 0513 and share our care and support

來分享我們的關注與支持，不用躊躇，即電25130513

我們會聆聽你的擔憂和解答你的疑問，而且所有在愛滋病熱線內傾談的內容絕對保密，包括閣下的身份。同樣，我們可以安排閣下做抗體測試，使閣下明白自己的HIV情況，如閣下是愛滋病帶菌／病患者更可參加我們的支持小組，使用我們的活動中心，還可收到Positive Link newsletter及PWA指南一書，我們會陪伴著你，去醫院或到住所探望你，假如閣下有需要申請援助金，我們可以為你申請。

你是絕對有權利享受美好人生，愛滋基金會永遠在你左右相陪，現在便致電我們的愛滋病熱線。

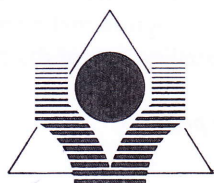
Your worries and questions are discreetly and anonymously answered on our AIDS Helpline.

In the same way, we can arrange an antibody test to determine your HIV status.

If you are living with HIV / AIDS you can join our support group and use our Day Centre as well as receive our *Positive Link* newsletter and *PWA Guide Book*. We also offer help and advice when and if you decide to apply for a PWA support grant.

AIDS Foundation is on your side. Let us be there for you whether at home or in hospital.

You have the right to lead a better life. Call today.

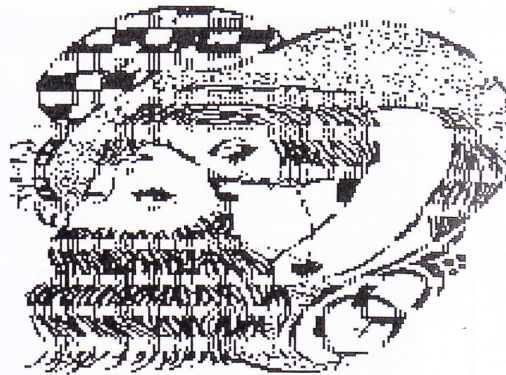
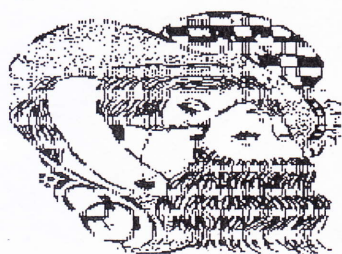


香港愛滋病基金會

HONG KONG

AIDS FOUNDATION

My Country



by Palesa Beverley Ditsie

The international debate on Lesbian women's civil, economic and legal rights took a significant leap forward at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September. For the first time since the first UN Women's Conference in 1975 the term 'sexual orientation' appeared in official conference documents, and the first address to the UN by an openly Lesbian woman was delivered by Palesa Ditsie representing the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of Witwatersrand, from South Africa, who described the triple burden of living with sexism, racism and homophobia.

I am from Soweto, South Africa where I have lived all my life and experienced both tremendous joy and pain within my community.

I come from a country that has recently had an opportunity to start afresh, an opportunity to strive for a true democracy where the people govern and where emphasis is placed on the human rights of all people. The Constitution of South Africa prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ethnic or social origin, colour, Sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, or language. In his opening parliamentary speech in Cape Town on the 9th of April 1994, His Excellency Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, State President of South Africa, received resounding applause when he declared that never again would anyone be discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognises the "inherent dignity and ...the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family," and guarantees the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of all people "without distinction of any kind, such a race, colour, sex, language ...or other status". Yet every day, in countries around the world, Lesbians suffer violence, harassment and discrimination because of their sexual orientation. Their basic human rights — such as the right to life, to bodily integrity, to freedom of association and expression — are violated. Women who love women are fired from their jobs; forced into marriages; beaten and mur-

dered in their homes and on the streets; and have their children taken away by hostile courts. Some commit suicide due to the isolation and stigma that they experience within their families, religious institutions and their broader community.

These and other abuses are documented in a recently released report by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission on sexual orientation and women's human rights, as well as in reports by Amnesty International. Yet the majority of these abuses have been difficult to document because although Lesbians exist everywhere in the world (including Africa), we have been marginalised and silenced and remain invisible in most of the world.

In 1994, the United Nations Human Rights Committee declared that discrimination based on sexual orientation violates the right to non-discrimination and the right to privacy guaranteed in the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. Several countries have passed legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. If the World Conference on Women is to address the concerns of all women, it must similarly recognise that discrimination based on sexual orientation is a violation of basic human rights. Paragraphs 48 and 226 of the Platform for Action recognise that women face particular barriers in their lives because of many factors, including sexual orientation. However, the term 'sexual orientation' is currently in brackets. If these words are omitted from the relevant paragraphs, the Platform for Action will stand as one more symbol of the discrimination that Lesbians face, and of the lack of recognition of our very existence.

No woman can determine the direction of her own life without the ability to determine her sexuality. Sexuality is an integral, deeply ingrained part of every human being's life and should not be subject to debate or coercion. Anyone who is truly committed to human rights must recognise that every woman has the right to determine her sexuality, free of discrimination and oppression.

See page 15



All the the REPORTS

by R. K. Engler

Seeing how things go, this could be my last spring. Perhaps I should spend it basking under the light of blue windows, or feeding my soul on the green of new leaves, and grass, or pale eyes like monumental verdigris.

I open the blinds just enough so that sunlight stripes the wall. Here is a photo of her, one of the few things I've hauled from pillar to post, kept with me from all the places I've moved since college, since my awakening.

How is it the past takes hold like jaws and does not let go? Now, even if she comes here with the gift of her body, would I take it - what does it mean, the air of the world compressed to a hand full of seeds or some dry salute?

So let it be spring. I open to what seems a rare season, a moment like the pause just before a drop of dew falls. That name teeters on my lips. Should I say it, or let it fall away too, and simply breathe the royal sigh of lilacs.



Birdcage



by Jeffrey Smart

Not so en-Cage-ing

For the first time in history, a film featuring gay characters has broken the U.S. \$100 million mark, it was announced last month. According to Variety, the United Artist's release *The Birdcage* the US domestic box office topped U. S. \$105 million.

Within its first six weeks of release, *The Birdcage* has even surpassed the highly successful major studio film *Philadelphia*, which grossed approximately U.S.\$78 million domestically. *La Cage Aux Folles*, the 1979 French film on which *The Birdcage* is based, grossed \$17 million in the U.S.

I trotted off to see *The BirdCage* recently. It had all the signs of a Great Gay Film: marketed to the mainstream, investigating the reaction of the Republican Right in America to homosexuality, a bit of drag thrown in to keep us entertained.

Now, I don't want to dampen anyone's enthusiasm. It's a lovely film, a charming little number full of campness, glamorous drag queens, stunning shots of Miami's South Beach and amusing little comedy-of-manners situations. At the end, though, I felt as if I'd eaten too much fairy floss. I did enjoy the film, and I laughed quite a bit, but I couldn't shake the feeling that the straight audience had

enjoyed it far more than I had. In fact, I think that maybe the straight audience got to laugh at the gay characters more than I got to laugh with them. That's a pretty important distinction.

Perhaps it's the price that the film-makers paid when they decided to recycle the old movie *La Cage Aux Folles*...

The film is about a situation which was radical in its day; the son of a gay man wants to get married, and in order to impress the parents of the girl, the gay man and his lover, a drag queen, try to play straight for the evening.

A 1990's audience is far more sophisticated than the audience of the original film. So what if the girl's parents don't like poofs, a 1990s audience might have asked - they'll get used to it. So in order to beef the film up a little and keep the drama happening, the girl is made into the daughter of the leader of the Religious Right, the Moral Majority. Now we have drama! As the right wing Senator is running for re-election, there's no way he can be linked to a gay couple, one of whom is a drag queen: voila! We return to the original story with the cover-up, and we get to laugh at the poofs trying to tame those limp wrists to make themselves appear straight. In the end, a bit of glam-

our and a bit of drag save the day.

The film encourages the straight audience to laugh at the antics of the campest gay characters (and they are very camp). There are a few jokes which only the Gay members of the audience get, but basically the humour is of the ilk of Mr Humphries in *Are You Being Served?*

Perhaps, animated reader, I'm just a cynical old twat who doesn't know how to have fun. I, for heaven's sake, almost walked out of *Jeffrey*, the film chosen to open this year's Queer Film and Video Festival. All that white, middle-class, ultra-refined angst over whether or not to fall in love with your gym instructor. Golly, I nearly passed away with the twee putridness of the whole exercise.

Give me a bit of grunge, dear reader. Cut the tinsel, stop trying to impress the straight audience, and shock my homosexual little socks off with a bit of cinema verity.

Perhaps I should stick to the torrid old docos on Gay resistance fighters or something.

When we went to press, *The Birdcage* was showing, Golden Gate, UA Circuit, Broadway Circuit. Class 11B (not suitable for young adults and children)

NEW SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Parliament voted at the Constitutional Assembly in Cape Town on May 8th 1996 to sign into law the new permanent Constitution, including a Bill of Rights which provides protections on the basis of sexual orientation among other factors. The inclusion of sexual orientation follows two years of intense lobbying efforts by Lesbian, Gay and other activists to retain the clause from the interim Constitution. Gays turned their attention to organising celebration parties across the country.

The "Equality Clause" of the Bill of Rights (which is the second chapter of the Constitution) protects persons from unfair discrimination on the basis of "race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth."

The Constitution was adopted by an overwhelming majority. The African National Congress (ANC), Pan African Congress and the National Party all voted to adopt the new constitution. The Freedom Front (Afrikaner Right Wing Party) abstained and the Inkatha Freedom Party boycotted the adoption ceremony, and indeed much of the constitution writing process because they were not involved in the process. The African National Congress (ANC) which constitutes over sixty percent of the parliament has consistently supported its inclusion. Archbishop Desmond Tutu strongly urged the constitutional assembly to retain the clause in the Bill of Rights and has recently stated that rejection of Gays and Lesbians by the church is "nearly the ultimate blasphemy."

The only party to vote against it was the African Christian Democratic Party, explicitly citing the retention of the sexual orientation clause and the right to abortion. They further stated that "The family is the most important building block of the society... The constitution supports the dissolution of the family, supports

criminals and those involved in unnatural lifestyles, and will inevitably lead to an increase in homelessness and street children." Prior to the vote, on Friday May 3, over 8,000 Christians and Muslims marched to parliament, opposing the inclusion of sexual orientation in the bill of rights and the right to abortion.

Kagendo Murungi, International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), was one of the speakers at a press conference in Cape Town on Thursday May 9 to observe the importance of the first adoption of any constitution in the world which includes the provision of equality for Lesbian, Gay, bisexual

people. The Conference will also be called for the immediate decriminalisation of homosexuality, which is still proscribed by the South African Sexual Offences Act. Murungi noted her experience as an official visitor of the Constitutional Assembly today, "It was an incredible honour to be present listening and watching President Mandela, Thabo Mbeki, Cyril Ramaphosa and other long struggling ANC people like Gertrude



Shope (formerly ANC women's league president), and Frene Ginwala (ANC Speaker of the house) orchestrating this historic decision."

Meanwhile a news agency reported that Gays are very welcome in South Africa's Army.

South Africa's parliament adopted a defense policy entrenching civilian control and barring discrimination against women and homosexual soldiers.

Under the new policy, the South African National Defense Force may not discriminate against women or Gays, and should respect different religions and languages.

Defense committee member Ian Phillips told Reuters: "The defense force now has to implement it (the policy) whether they like it or not. We will keep an eye on them."

by Julie Dorf

See page 12

Oral Row in Sweden

A TV 4 news report, in May, covered a new study of people with HIV at Venhaelsen, one of Stockholm's medical hiv centres. The news report gave the impression that the study proved that oralsex (active/passive) is more dangerous than previously believed.


The TV report was initiated by another of Sweden's hiv-support-and-education centres, Noaks Ark. The two groups have for years taken different views on the risks of oral sex. RFSL's safe-sex policy is sex-positive and rejects unmotivated restrictions on Gay men and lesbian's sexlife. This policy is obviously influenced by a gay rights strategy. Whereas Noaks Ark's policy has always been more restrictive, including recommendations to abstain from all types of unprotected oral sex. The policy is mainly influenced by purely medical considerations.

What does the Venhaelsen study say?

The center interviewed 108 HIV+ patients. All of them were men who have had sex with other men. Seven (6%) stated that they had never had anal intercourse, and are believed to have been infected by oral sex which included ejaculation in the mouth or through other complications.

The study does not show whether the virus can infect a person through healthy mucous membranes of the mouth. RFSL's safer-sex message can be summarized in two sentences: "always use a condom when having sexual intercourse. Avoid sperm in the mouth. Oral sex without ejaculation in the mouth implies a very minimal risk. If you want to decrease the risk further - a condom gives an excellent protection."

Guy
★ Escort Masseur
71128128 page 728



Guy's photo

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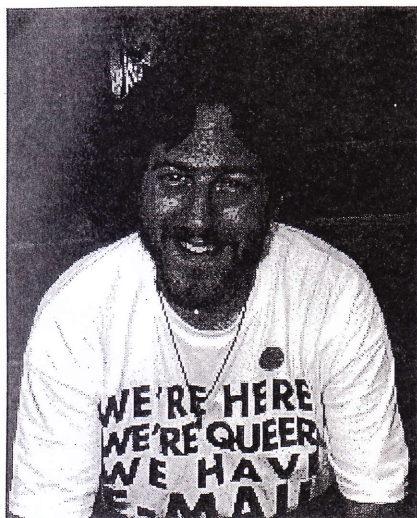
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Out On the Net

by Spode

The Internet can be a lot of fun, and a source of information both serious and playful. To access the Internet, you must get a computer account with one of the many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Hong Kong. Most people then use the World-Wide Web to access resources through hypertext links where you click on some text or a graphic and the computer connects you to something else. If you don't know what I am talking about, you might want to read a gay-oriented introduction to the Internet article. You can get it by fax from me (2358-8226), e-mail (spode@sqzm14.ust.hk), or web (<http://sqzm14.ust.hk/internet.html>).

Two important notes. The Internet is case-sensitive - it cares about capital letters. The directories pub/www/ and pub/WWW/ are not the same thing. So always write down addresses, directories, and file names exactly as they appear.

Second, most of the addresses in these columns will be what are called URLs. The first part indicates whether the site is for ftp, gopher, telnet, or http - this last is the protocol used by the Web. Web addresses look like <http://sqzm14.ust.hk/hkgay.html> which says make a web connection to computer sqzm14.ust.hk and read the file named hkgay.html, Hong Kong Gay Resources:

One of the best collections of local gay and lesbian information can be found on the Gay Hong Kong page at <http://sqzm14.ust.hk/hkgay.html>. This includes information on clubs, saunas, organisations, links to other HK-oriented collections, etc. While the information is the most up-to-date. I have found on the Internet, the structure could use some improvement (*Disclaimer—since this is*

my own server, you should be aware that I am biased in this regard).

Other useful pages on the same server include: <http://sqzm14.ust.hk/private.html> which has links to more general and regional Web sites. http://sqzm14.ust.hk/eo_paper.html which has a variety of links relating to the HK Government's consultation paper on possible non-discrimination legislation. <http://sqzm14.ust.hk/horizons/> the official 'home page' for Horizons, the local counselling and service organisation.

There is also an e-mail discussion list for HK gay and lesbian issues. To subscribe to the HKQueer list, send a message to macjordomo@sqzm14.ust.hk. In the body of the message, just have one line reading: subscribe hkqueer <your name> for example: subscribe hkqueer Spode

For a very good collection of regional information and links, go to the 'Queer Asian Pacific Resources' site at <http://www.tufts.edu/~stai/QAPA/resources.html>. Here you can find bibliographies, film lists, articles, and a variety of online resource collections. Coverage is a little uneven, and the quality varies greatly between the different information collections available.

There is also an excellent compilation of AIDS/HIV related information, with a strong Hong Kong focus, can be found at <http://www.iohk.com/UserPages/mlau/aidshome.html>

Future columns will focus on brief reviews of Web sites relating to different topics. Possibilities include Gay online publications, Asian Resources, Gay personal ads, etc. Please send your comments and ideas to Spode@sqzm14.ust.hk.

Are
Plastic
Condoms
Safe



Review Calls Avanti Safe; Expert Questions Validity

A review of company studies of the Avanti polyurethane condom suggests that it slips and breaks less often or with the same frequency as latex condoms. Results of another study of the plastic condom, sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), are expected later this spring. The American government study was requested by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) after previous studies showed high breakage rates with the new condom. Approved in 1991 for latex-sensitive individuals, Avanti is the only male condom, other than lamb skin, available for the estimated 1 percent to 2 percent of the general population that is sensitive to latex. Experts expect more people to develop greater sensitivity to latex with repeated exposure.

Meanwhile, the maker of Avanti, London International Group of Cambridge, England, reported that the condoms broke at a rate of 0.9 percent and that latex condoms broke at a rate of 2.1 percent. These study results contradicted pilot NICHD studies, however, and the FDA later asked the company and the NICHD conduct new research. Several other plastic condoms have been submitted to the FDA for approval, and a thicker version of Avanti was approved last year.

AIDS Alert

PAPAL DEMONSTRATION

by Ales Pecnik



During the Pope's visit to Slovenia May 17-19. Several women's groups demonstrated against the Catholic Church's oppression, members of Slovene Gay and Lesbian groups Magnus, LL and Roza klub joined with them.

The first demonstration attended by over 100 people was held on May 15. Demonstrators handed out leaflets and chanted: 'Freedom of choice regarding one's body and progeny, freedom of sexual orientation and love and equal opportunities for all are basic rights of all people, regardless of their religion. The ideology which is connected to this visit wants to limit these rights. The freedom of religion is a basic value of every society, just as the freedom of doubt is.'

The second demonstration held on May 18 was on the Pope's route to the mass. Over 50 demonstrators were met by approximately 15 police officers who didn't, according to reports, have much to do because it was non-violent. Posters 'Roza klub (Pink Club) welcomes the Holy Father,' were printed as a part of a visibility campaign and could be seen all over Ljubljana.

Signatures were collected for a petition for the return of the memorial, that was for women who during WW II (the then) the bishop, that used to stand in front of Ljubljana's main church, but was removed when the right wing took over the city government. The memorial. They requested bishop to get the Nazis to free their husbands and sons but he continually refused to do so. The Roman-Catholic church in Slovenia collaborated with the Nazis during WW II.

Travels With

Fi Fi

What do you say when a friend offers to fly you to Beijing and back, put you up in a hotel for three nights, give you two long days of sightseeing, feed you breakfast and lunch and transfer you to the hotel and back to the airport for only HK\$4,200? What do you say? Grab your ball-gown Betty Lou, we're going to have a party! Whoopee.....

But what will we do after dinner each night? If you can't make it with the bellboy, (even Hornae has problems persuading the bellboy,) go to Nightman Disco and have yourself a wild time - but don't be bashful! Those Real China Boys don't like no sissies, you better be real tough or have a body like Johnson Wong's. I suppose having a fat wallet would help too....

That's what me and Hornae did last month. I never would have thought Beijing's queer disco would be so much better than the queer clubs in Hong Kong, but Nightman wins the contest hands down! Ask any concierge, they all know the Nightman. Just imagine... as you pull up in the taxi, you're greeted at the door by at least six boys wearing PLA uniforms. Maybe they even were PLA? Who cares, the uniforms sure did make my crotch ache.

I wore an old black cocktail dress, and the boys loved my dress, they all kept saying hao kan, hao kan. Hornae wore one of her typical sleazy dresses just barely covering her private bits. But I don't think it was appreciated very much because they all just stared at her, no one said a thing. Inside the disco were about twenty more of our boy

friends in green - lucky us! There were also the usual beefcake boys, and lots of trendettes. A great crowd.

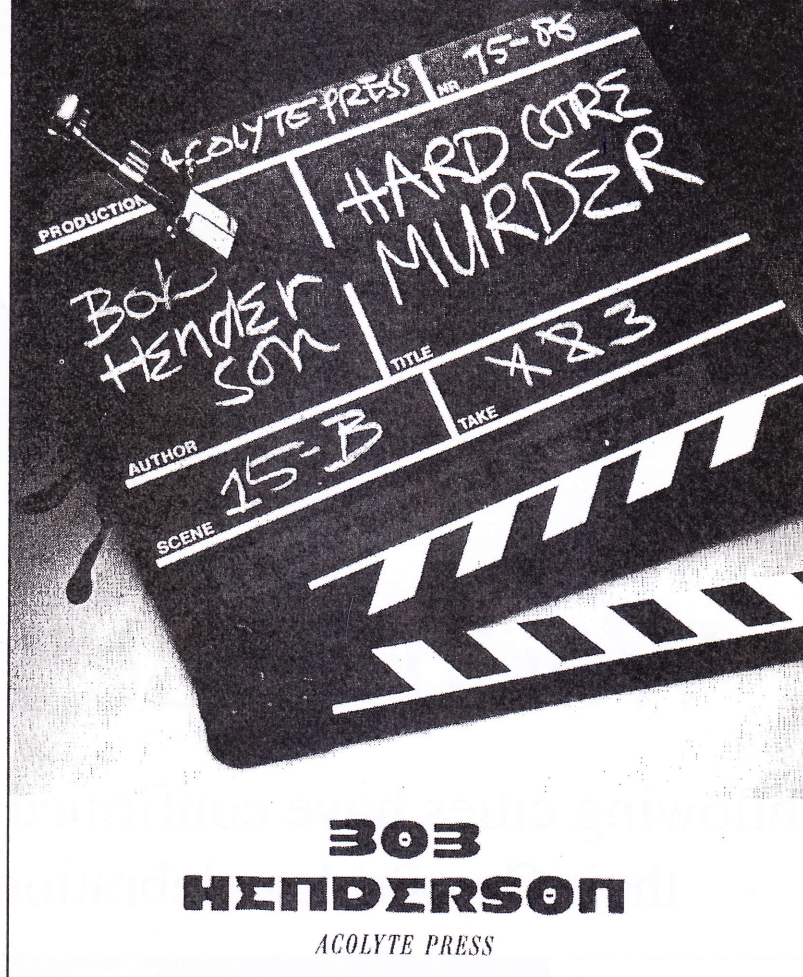
The music was surprisingly danceable, apart from the odd ballad or two, what do you expect, Beijing is in China... But the club itself was stupendous. Nightman is an old converted theatre turned dance club. The orchestra has been changed into a large dance floor, and the balconies are full of cocktail tables and chairs. There is a large DJ booth in the centre of the club, and dance platforms all around the room. The light show was as good as any I've seen anywhere. And there were plenty of bars to keep the liquid flowing.

They say the club is only Gay on weekends, and that's when we were there. But weekends are more than enough for me!

Unfortunately, I didn't score, but hey that makes 247 nights without sex! I'm really on a roll now... The best part is, the whole deal (minus Nightman) is available from Dragonair, and they're still advertising, so pack your Mandarin phrase book, a few good ball-gowns, a dozen or more of your best buddies, and have a blast!

Cheers!

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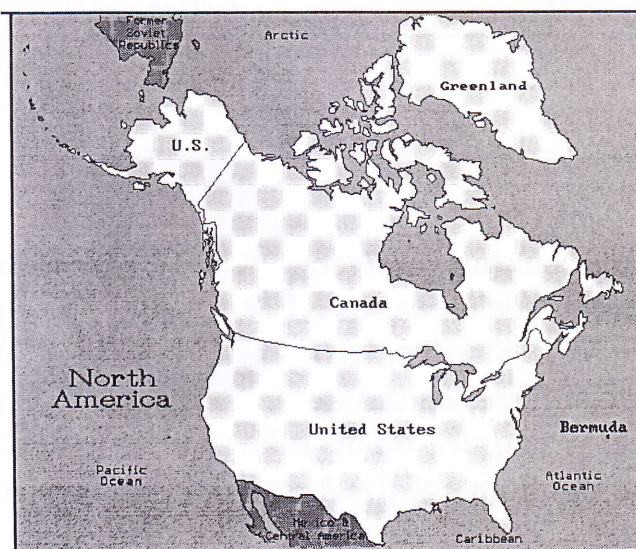
Pride v bored

World Pride'96

The following cities have confirmed the dates of their Gay Pride celebrations.

North America

Atlanta USA: June 28-30
Baltimore USA: June 6
Bangor Maine USA: July 13-14
Billings, Mont. USA: July 7-9
Mexico City Mexico: June 29
Philadelphia USA: June 9
Seattle USA: June 30
San Francisco USA: June 30
Tijuana Mexico: June 29
Toronto Canada: June 30
Vancouver B.C. Canada: Aug. 4-5
Washington D.C USA: June 2-9
Victoria B.C Canada: July 7



South America

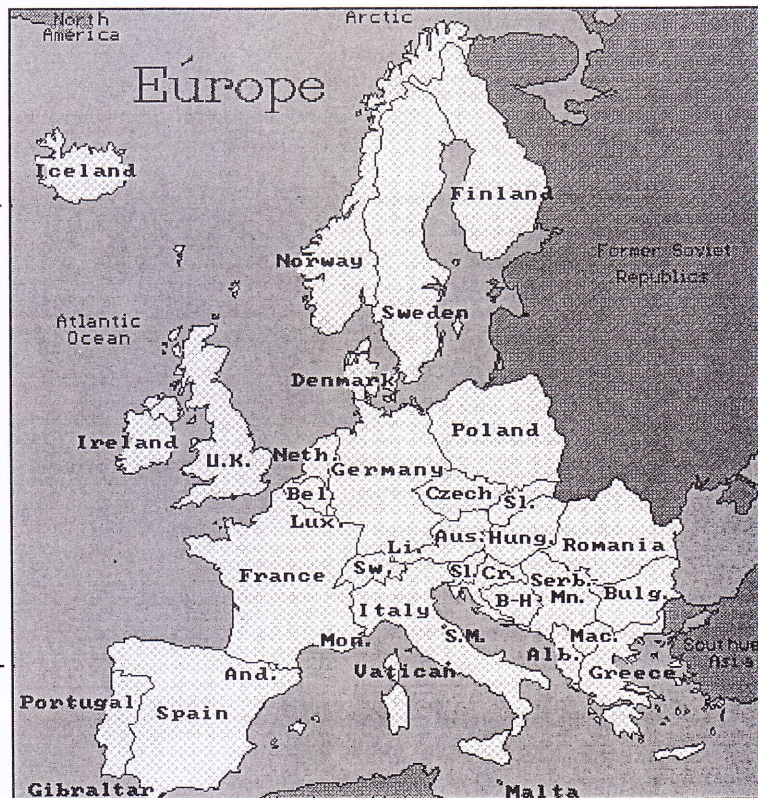
Buenos Aires Argentina: June 28



without orders

Europe

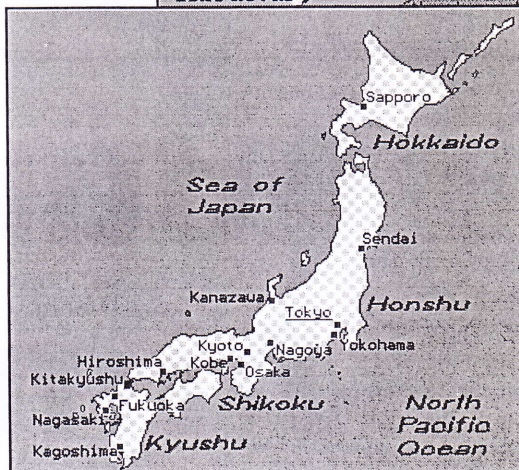
Brussels Belgium: May 18
 Copenhagen Denmark : June 21-30
 Dublin Ireland: June 23-30
 Glasgow Scotland: June 22
 Helsinki Finland: Aug. 5-11
 Lisbon Portugal: June 28
 London England: July 6
 Marseilles France: June 30
 Paris France June 22
 Vienna Austria: June 29
 Zurich Switzerland: July 20



Places that have already celebrated Gay Pride this year are not mentioned in the list but will be included in future reports.

Wherever you are it's a Gay World!

Source IAL/GPC



Japan

Tokyo: 24th August

These quotations show not just that prejudice against homosexuals exists among soldiers, sailor and airmen, as one would expect, but that its violent expression is cheerfully tolerated in a manner that would be considered quite unacceptable in ordinary society. Rather than feel shame or embarrassment about this, the Ministry of Defence cites it in justification of its decision to uphold its ban on homosexuals in the military. This is perhaps even more shocking.

"We do not accept that the survey accurately reflects the feelings of serving men and women," said Angel Mason. She went on to say, "It's ridiculous to suggest that British people are more bigoted than the French, Australians or Israelis."

Homosexuality is not only "unnatural" but intolerable to an overwhelming majority of servicemen, according to the former Sea Lord Sir Henry Leach.

It wasn't quite like that during Nick Elwood's army days. Elwood a Gay ex-Trumpet Major recalls how tolerant people were in his, vibrant, fairly public and wholly satisfying 14 years as a Gay man in the armed forces.

He did attract the eye of the military Special Investigation Branch but that inquiry was swiftly called off when the branch found that 20 percent of the band of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards was Gay. He says investigators told him: "We do want to start a witch hunt."

Ex-Trumpet Major Elwood has decided to come out to a wider public because he finds the media picture of force's prejudice contradicts his own blithe years of service, which ended with an unblemished record. He found homosexuality widely tolerated in postings at Catterick, in Munster, in Cyprus and in his main headquarters at Osnabruck, West Germany.

Mr Elwood, now 39, joined the Inniskilling band as a trumpeter and flute player in 1973 and "came out" without angst 18 months later. "There are areas of the forces where Gays are fairly common and virtually accepted," he says. "Bands are one. Medics are quite notorious for it. It's a question of how you deal

with it. If you went round broadcasting it too much outside, you'd be in trouble. I don't particularly come across to people as being Gay. "In the army, I taught karate and had a black belt, which helped."

Not in



King Richard I of England

our Army

"Knowledge of it seems to stop at a certain level. In 1985 I was at a regular six-monthly briefing which our C/O, Patrick Cordingley [later a brigade commander in the Gulf war] gave the whole regiment. "He said: 'There are no queers or druggies in my regiment'. I laughed. All my friends laughed. They were much harder on drug users than Gays."

Late in his service he studied at Kneller Hall, the Royal Military School of Music, and was in charge of 15 trumpeters. "Once again there was no shortage of soldiers who preferred to sleep with men. "Yes, there were moments when I encountered prejudice. But for most of my service I was respected, supported and definitely encouraged by my straight comrades. I still have connections with serving members who insist that nothing has changed.

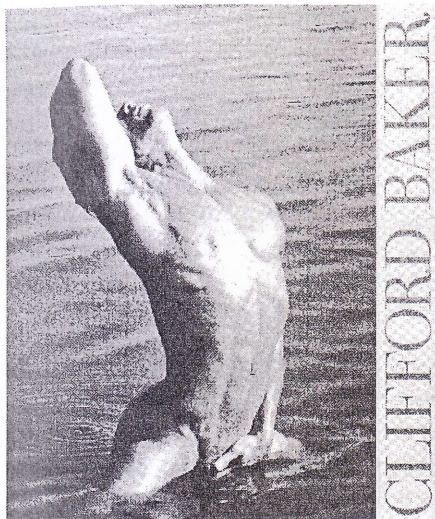
"I had a great time being Gay in the army. It would almost spoil it if they legalised it. But I do want to see it legalised."

Ed Hall, a serviceman dismissed for homosexuality, commented: "The report accepts there are no security implications. That only leaves prejudice as justification. The questionnaire was supposedly anonymous but so much personal information had to be given that respondents couldn't be honest without feeling they might be suspected of homosexuality."

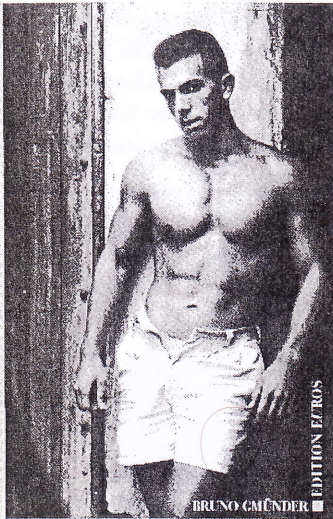
The Liberal Democratic Party's Menzies Campbell warned that if the Government did not change its policy it would find itself forced to do so by the courts. "This is a straightforward question of civil rights. The Ministry of Defence has a choice — either it follows the practice in virtually every other Nato country or else it will be forced in a matter of a few years to concede."

Mr Blair, Leader of the Labour Party, talking to the *Guardian* newspaper said "I believe that homosexual people should not be banned or discharged from the military merely by reason of the fact that they are Gay."

The survey, not surprisingly given the predominance of men in the armed services, shows far greater hostility towards male homosexuality than lesbianism.



CLIFFORD BAKER



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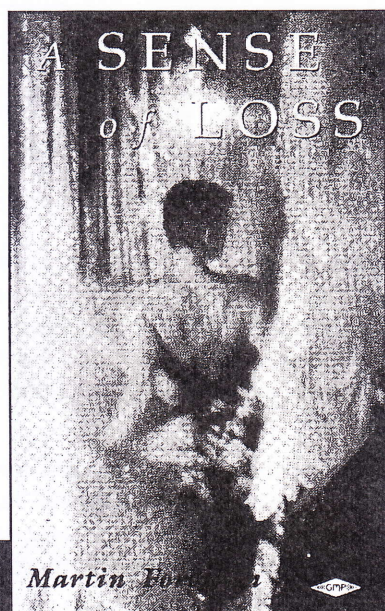
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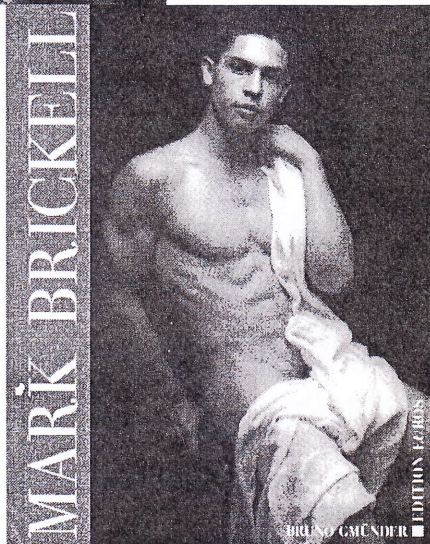
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Martin Forman

A Sense of Loss

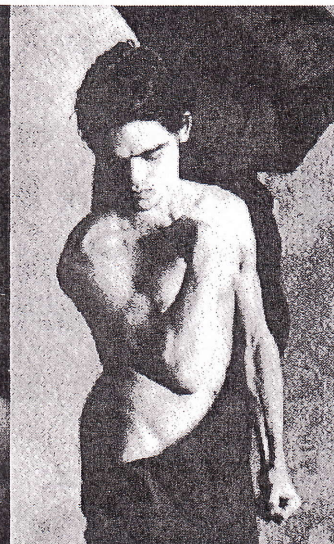
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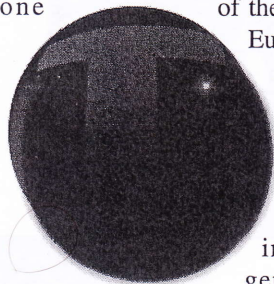
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The 24-hour music television channel, MTV Europe, will be transmitting this year's Europride '96 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The television's coverage on MTV will include various Europride events as well as the giant Europride street parade through Copenhagen on the evening of June 29th, 1996.

When the thousands of Lesbians and Gays from all over the world gather for the fourth European Gay & Lesbian Pride festival, they will also be meeting some of the world's top international performers.

Well-known and loved by international audiences for years, the American Gay icon pop group, Village People, are just one of the top names of Europride '96.



Village People will appear on stage at the giant closing party in Copenhagen's old velodrome, the Forum. On stage that same evening will also be Right Said Fred, the English kitsch cult-band Doreen Doreen, and upcoming Swedish Gay pop band Polaris. The finale will comprise of over three hours of international entertainment, and four hours of dancing.

For ten days, Copenhagen Europride will offer an abundance of culture, arts, theatre, various sports and social activities for a Gay audience. However, the Europride-

at-Night parties are an important part of the programme with dance parties every night for the entire ten days. The famous

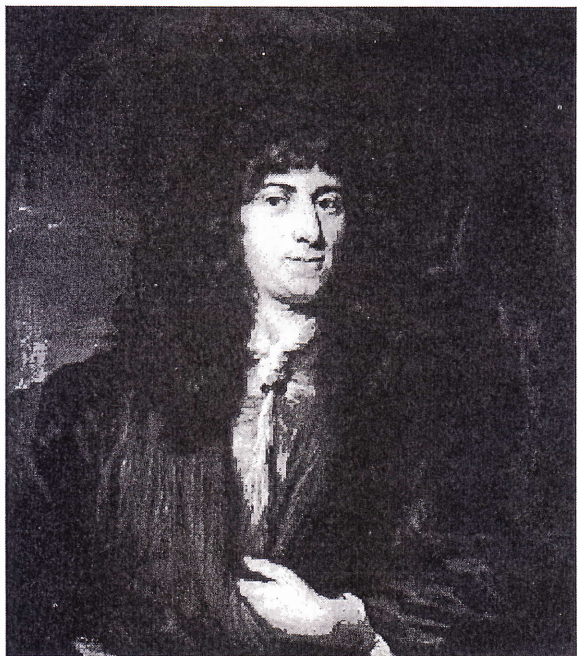


British female pop group Bananarama will appear on stage at one of these parties. The

Europride-at-Night parties take place in exciting locations in the very centre of Copenhagen, such as closed-down electricity plants and the disused base of the Royal Danish Navy.

Copenhagen Europride, which has been for over three years planned, offers a comprehensive programme from June 21st to 30th 1996. A packed ten days of arts, politics, entertainment, parties and a giant street parade through Copenhagen. Over 75,000 Lesbians and Gays from all over the world are expected to take part in the festivities.

Copenhagen Pride Association



Poofter is usually used in a derogatory manner. The word has its origins in 18th century England and referred to Gay people of that time. It is thought to have started with a group of people known as 'Macaronis' the hairdressers of that period.

They are known to have been an avant-garde group that imported French fashion to England. Everything from garments to hairdos. They dressed in an 'advanced' manner, wearing ex-

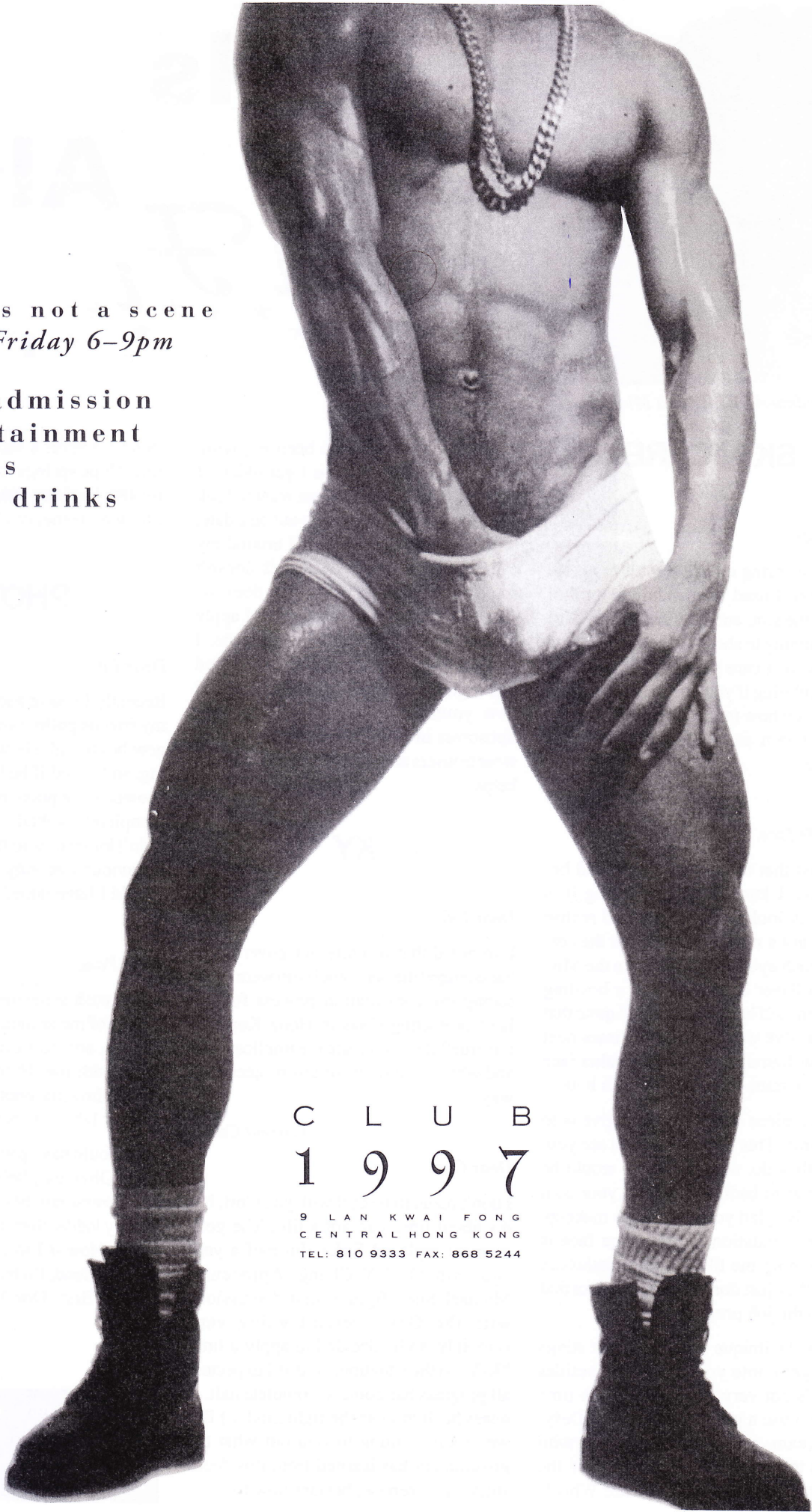
POOFTER

aggerated very exotic makeup. It was from their makeup, that the word poofter eventually developed, as they had very thick layers of powder. They were very keen on their powder poof, hence the word poofter. People of the time not only tolerated but fully accepted them, as having something worthwhile to offer to society.

The word survived into our century, having a 'revival' in the 1920's with the appearance of Rudolf Valentino, well known to be very keen on his compact powder case. He was known in Hollywood circles as a powder-poof. After that poofter quickly became a synonym of Gay.

Poofter or Pooftah is an English word commonly used throughout the UK, Australia, New Zealand and a number of other English speaking countries. It certainly does not mean 'queen', nor 'girlfriend' in the North American sense, but is far closer to faggot.

And despite the derogatory and insulting nature of the words, in 1988 Britain's Press Council ruled that newspapers and magazines can use the words "poof" and "poofter". The Press Council agreed with a London Gay rights group's objections to use of the words as coarse, and intended to be insulting, in headlines in the *Star* and the *Sun*, but said the words were commonly used and so came within the discretion of the editors.



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SKIN CARE

Dear Fifi,

I'm not a spring chicken, but I'm no old fart either. I used to spend quite a bit of time in the sun, and the lines on my face are beginning to show it. I know that there are now skin care products for men, but I'm wondering if you could provide a few pointers on how to look after my skin. I'd like to retain as much youthfulness as possible.

Loosing my face

Dear Ms face,

I crossed that bridge years ago, and believe me, I know how frightening it is when you look in the mirror and realise you've got a network of lines at the corner of each eye that would make the Mississippi River delta look like a bowling alley. I myself have never gotten quite that bad, but I've woken up many times next to a new-found friend whose leather face has made mine look like a baby's butt.

The best piece of advice I can give is to stay home. This way no one will see you, and if they do, no one I know would be so rude as to badmouth you in your own home... Be glad you don't wear makeup. Putting foundation on a vintage face is like painting the tiles on your bathroom floor - they just don't make a product that will do the job properly!

I've tried Clinique for men, but it stings if you get it into your eyes. And besides that, it's not very expensive. From time to time I use a product called Age Defying Cream, made by Ponds. But who wants to use a face cream made by the same company that sells Cheeze Whiz?

And not only that, I've been enjoying myself more and more as I get older - I don't want to defy age, I just want to look like I have. When I'm going out on a date, I apply a little Preparation H around my eyes to shrink the swelling. It doesn't smell very ladylike, but it sure does the job! Every night before sleeping I apply L'Oreal's Plenitude all over my face. I never rub or wipe, just pat. Since I started this regime, all my friends have claimed how youthful I look. Plenitude's got liposomes in it, so I guess you better not wear trousers at the same time. I hope this helps.

KY

Dear Fifi,

I've heard that recently our government has changed the personnel who were overseeing the consultation process for the laws protecting Gays in Hong Kong. Is this true? If so, what are the implications, and what is the status of this project anyway?

Current Curtis

Dear Curt,

I don't mean to be curt with you Curt, but it's about time you got a life! The government replaced Erika Hui half a year ago with Ms KY Chang. Apparently Michael Suen figured that discussions with the Gays weren't going very smoothly, so he decided to apply a little "K-Y" to the situation. And as I expected, all progress has come to complete halt. (I guess he didn't use the right kind....) But we're still waiting to find out what the government has learned from this "consultation" exercise, besides how to

spend taxpayer's money and waste our time. Hope springs eternal. (It must since my 48th birthday hasn't stopped me from hitting on teenagers!)

PHOTOS

Dear Fifi,

Recently I was at a local club, and one of my friends pulled out a photograph of his new boyfriend. He was quite good looking, so I asked if he had any more. So he showed me a photo of the new boyfriend completely naked. I was shocked, and didn't know how to tell my friend that his behaviour was truly inappropriate. What should I have done?

A Paul-ed

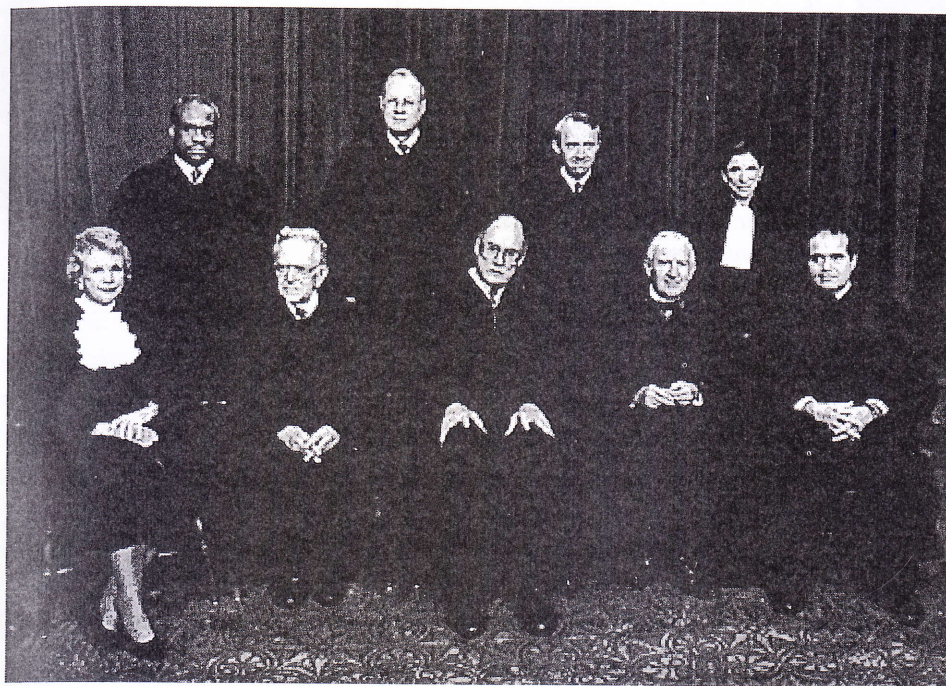
Dear Paul,

I sure wish someone would show naked photos of me around town! I'm hung like a horse, and still can't get anyone to go home with me. Unfortunately, if you go round showing photos of yourself, your quickly labelled cocky - and I really am!

You should have patted your friend on the back! Obviously he's finally found someone several notches higher on the evolutionary ladder than himself, and he's very proud. Now if I were to show pictures of my boyfriend, I'd have to get a panoramic camera first. Don't be such an uptight hussy!

Until next time, keep the condoms coming. And if you have any more scintillating questions, you can reach Fifi at Box 555 Contacts Magazine.

Colorado's



Judges of Supreme Court of United State of America

Vote

by Kerry Lobel

Supreme court strikes down amendment

On the 26th May the United States Supreme Court ruled against Colorado's Amendment 2. The measure would have allowed the Colorado state constitution to overturn existing protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and prohibit the passage of any such protection in the future. It was passed by majority vote in 1992.

The Supreme Court decision on Colorado's Amendment 2 is a profound victory for all who believe in basic equal rights and the fundamental principle that all people deserve to live free from discrimination. It would have created special barriers to basic equal rights. It would have blocked the open and free participation in the democratic process for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals.

Melinda Paras, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) executive director, said "We commend those justices who defended basic civil rights and stood up

to the anti-democratic agenda of religious political extremists. At stake are the very principles of democracy: justice, freedom, personal liberty, and the right to be different and still live free from the tyranny of the majority."

This ruling should be the stake through the heart of the divisive, unconstitutional and extremist anti-Gay ballot measure campaigns of the Radical Right. Last year a similar measure was defeated in Maine. In 1994, despite a Republican sweep in the elections, voters rejected anti-Gay measures in Oregon and Idaho. In 1992, Oregon defeated yet another measure. In fact, Amendment 2 was the only state anti-Gay ballot measure to be passed, even though it never went into effect. Now it too has been struck down.

Unfortunately, the victory may be short-lived. Despite this ruling, the Radical Right are not expected to give up. They are already evolving their measures to make them more difficult to be challenged

in court, such as the failed attempt in Maine last year that simply "omitted" Gay people and others from the list of those protected against discrimination.

"Religious political extremists will not stop until they have advanced their broader, anti-democratic, repressive agenda," said Paras.

"I am looking forward to the time which is drawing closer when we do not have to live as second-class citizens anymore. When we can live free from violence, persecution, discrimination and intolerance. When the untruths of religious political extremists are exposed as lies. When the horrible rhetoric that we seek "special rights" or that we threaten "traditional family values" is replaced with the truth that we demand the same basic equal rights that all Americans enjoy, including the ability to work free from discrimination and nurture our own families," she said.

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請依照以下的步驟來回覆徵友信箱，既簡又快捷；而我們亦會盡快將你的信交到他們手上，所有信箱服務期為三個月，由刊登開始。

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步驟（二）：每一封信我們收取三個一元的郵票服務費。假若多過一封信，便要多給郵票，如此類推，但郵票並不一定要貼在信封上，只要將它放入寄給 Contacts Magazine 的信封內便可，然後將你的姓名及地址寫在一張紙上。

步驟（三）：將你的信、郵票及寫了姓名及地址的字條一起放入一個信封內，然後寄 Contacts Magazine G.P.O. Box 13427 Hong Kong.

Adverts for inclusion in the next issue should reach us by 3rd July. Fill in the form on page 30 or fax us on 2817-9120.

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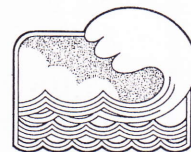
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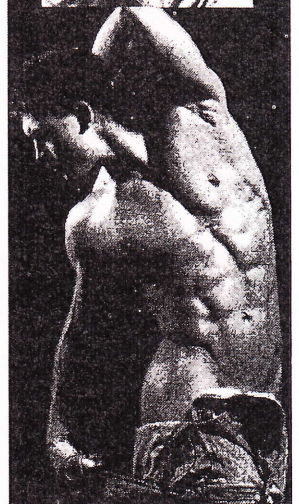
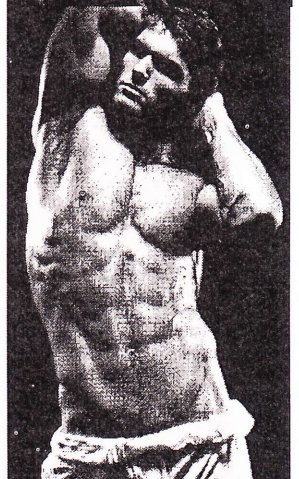
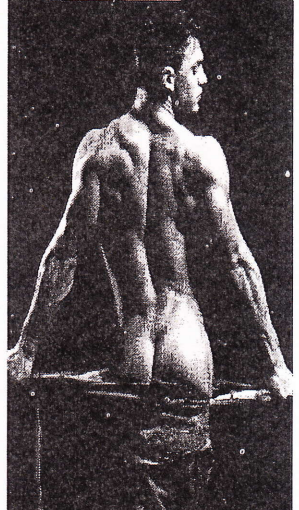
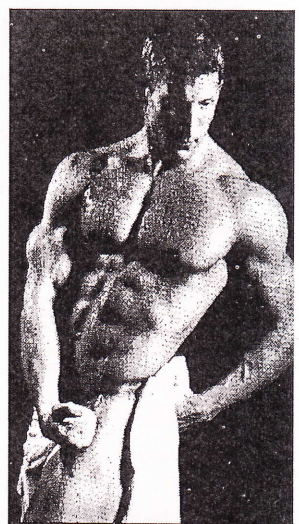
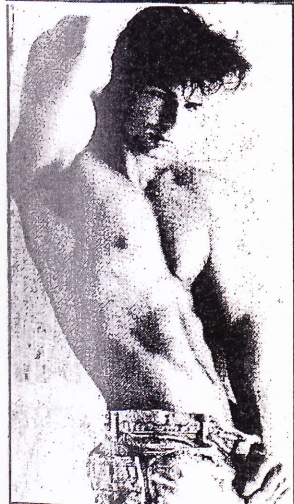
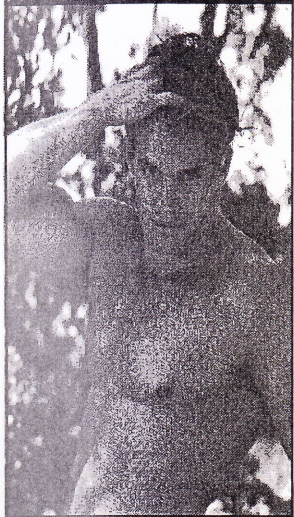
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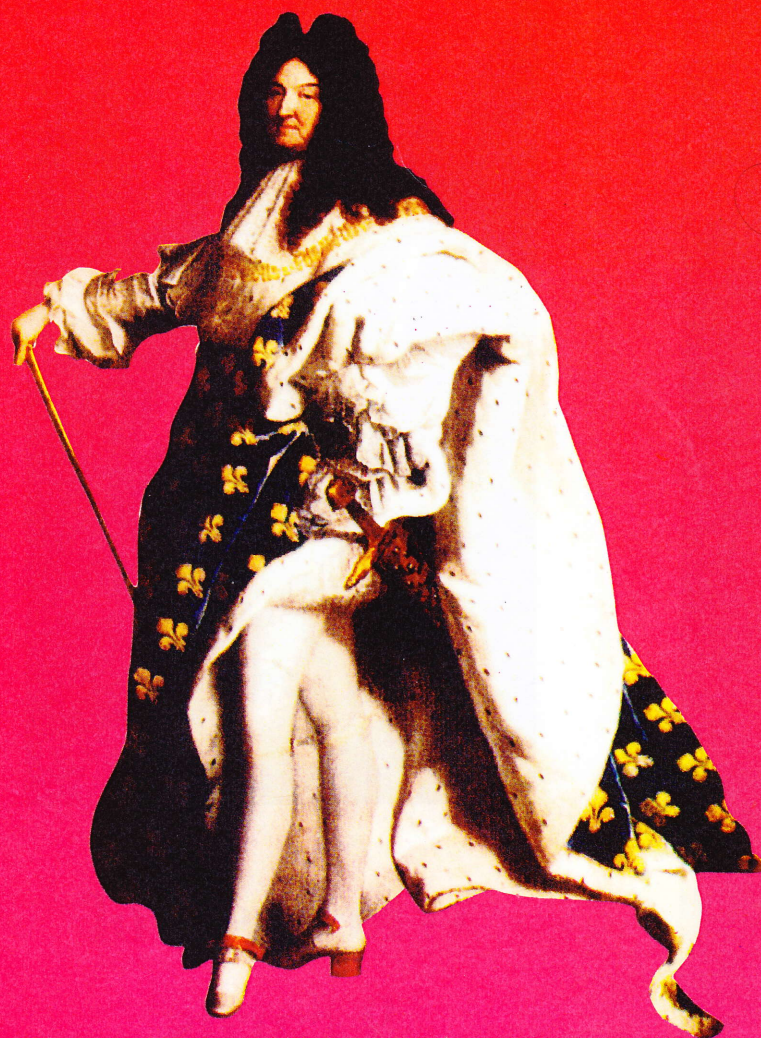
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